

so well received that the Speaker of the House re-established the Office of the Historian in 2005 and appointed Dr. Remini as the House Historian.

Madam Speaker, I would like to urge all of my colleagues to join me in thanking the Office of the Historian for sponsoring this program. Under the leadership of Dr. Remini and Dr. Fred Beuttler, along with their staff; Michael Cronin, Anthony Wallis, interns Michael Weiss and Laura Neff; the Office of the Historian is dedicated to fulfilling the goals of the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act by conserving and presenting the history of the House of Representatives, the "People's House."

BAD POLLUTERS ACT (H.R. 3276)

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to stand here today with (originals) and introduce

legislation that will help protect the Great Lakes from harmful pollution that poisons our water and closes our beaches. The Great Lakes are the world's largest freshwater system and serve as a source of drinking water, food, jobs and recreation for more than forty million Americans. It is critical that we enhance our restoration efforts for this critical resource, not degrade the condition of the lakes even further.

British Petroleum (BP) will soon begin a \$3.8 billion expansion of its refinery facility in Whiting, Indiana. Based on a provision in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, BP is eligible for a tax credit that will allow them half of the capital expense costs in the first year of the expansion. This expansion currently includes a large increase of pollution into the Great Lakes. The facility was recently issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit which will allow it to discharge an increase of 54 percent more ammonia and 35 percent more sludge into Lake Michigan per day. This will total a combined increase of more than 1,800 pounds per day of these pollutants which strangle aquatic life

and contribute to the increasing number of beach closures each year.

While providing incentives to energy production and refinery expansion helps to lower gas prices and reduce our dependence on foreign oil, we must not do so at the expense of one of America's most treasured natural resources.

That is why I am introducing the Bad Polluters Act which will deny the capital expensing tax credit to any refiner whose facility's NPDES permit allows for an increase in any pollutant above its 2006 levels into the Great Lakes. This will prevent companies, such as BP, from seeking to increase pollution into our drinking water. In order to claim this important tax credit, companies will be forced to search a bit harder for a new solution to water treatment. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and join in the fight to protect our national treasure.